

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 4, 2008

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Kevin Bartram, Kerry Devine, Kathleen Walsh, Rochelle Grey, Roy Jarnecke, Pat Thalman, Peter Scelfo, George Solley, Kim Schill, and Florence Ridderhof. Absent: Debby Klein.

Approval of Minutes

Roy Jarnecke called the meeting to order. The minutes of August 18, 2008 were reviewed, and Florence Ridderhof made a motion to accept. Motion was seconded by Pat Thalman and the motion unanimously passed.

Public Comment

Chairman Jarnecke recognized three members of the public that were in attendance and allowed them to introduce themselves.

Presentation: Obtaining Space for Art

Chairman Jarnecke introduced guest speaker Kirk Wilke with the Rappahannock Pops Orchestra. Wilke stated that since they will not be able to perform at James Monroe High School this year, they are looking at moving to Spotsylvania Middle School. Wilke explained the needs of the Pops, a public, non-profit business, and distributed a sample budget for each concert. The orchestra requires an 80' X 35' stage and if there is a chorus, the size increases to a minimum 80' X 50.' Tickets sell for \$20, \$15 for seniors, and free to students. The Commission discussed and suggested possible venue options including Market Square and the old Winn Dixie building. Wilke advised they are considering options for the future but noted James Monroe High School is the most ideal for their needs.

Reports

Mission Statement- Kevin Bartram

Kevin presented the revisions he made to the Mission Statement per the discussion at the August meeting. After some discussion and further revisions, the statement was accepted as follows:

Who we are:

The 11 member Arts Commission advises the City on policy and program development, oversees the grants and public art programs, advocates for the Arts in Fredericksburg, and acts as a liaison between the arts community and the City. Arts commission members are appointed by the City Council.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fredericksburg Arts Commission is to enrich the lives of Fredericksburg area residents by promoting, expanding, and supporting the Arts and arts organizations.

Bylaws Review Committee

Kevin Bartram reported that he and Debby Klein reviewed half of the bylaws and presented their revisions. The Commission had some further discussion and suggested further revisions. Additional comments and suggestions should be emailed to Bartram and Klein as they will continue their efforts. The Commission stopped their discussion after reviewing the bylaws through Article Five.

It was noted that a method for receiving and distributing funds needs to be determined quickly. George Solley reported he would contact the City's Director of Fiscal Affairs on this matter.

Calendar (Website) Committee

As suggested at the August meeting, Kevin Bartram talked with several associates who develop websites to obtain their advice. He reported that their general consensus was that the Commission needed to determine exactly what it wants the website to do and determine who will maintain the site. He posed several scenarios that were suggested.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion concerning the website. It was generally agreed that more information was needed. It was suggested that a home page be created and then the site could be expanded upon as funding became available. It was also noted that samples of other sites and a presentation from the website designer that Pat Thalman has been working with be conducted at the next meeting. Thalman reported that the consultant continues to work at no charge. Peter Scelfo made a motion that the Commission offer the consultant a \$2,500 retainer, which is 50% of the fee he is asking for to create and manage the site, and ask the consultant to conduct as much work as that retainer will cover. The motion was seconded by Rochelle Grey. After further discussion, Chairman Jarnecke stated he did not feel the Commission was ready to take that step since a method for transmitting funds has yet to be determined and there is not a clear understanding of what the

Commission wants for its money. Kerry Devine made a motion to table Scelfo's motion. Motion was seconded by Kevin Bartram. Motion passed.

Pat Thalman agreed to search for examples and assist with a presentation at the next meeting. Kim Schill advised she would forward the Commission a link to the Harrisonburg Arts Council website as it is a membership based organization similar to what the Commission is interested in creating.

Old Business

Peter Scelfo reported the Commission has \$15,000 in its account.

George Solley advised there has been no further development on the Amelia Square Project.

New Business

Kim Schill reported on an upcoming conference taking place in Detroit on "Cool Cities." Schill explained she, George Solley, and Visitor Center Manager Julie Perry attended a seminar in which one of the speakers was the director of Cool Cities which is an urban revitalization effort in Michigan that emphasizes the arts. Schill stated she would email details about the conference to the Commission in case someone was interested in attending.

Adjournment

Kerry Devine made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Florence Ridderhof and the meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2 at 7pm in the City Hall Conference Room.